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Orders for COPIES, and for ADVERTISEMENTS may be sent to the Agents at the various Ports, or to the Office of

"THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH"

Printers: H. H. HONGKONG, Hongkong, 16th January, 1894.

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London Office, 8, Fenchurch Buildings, E.C. Hongkong, 16th January, 1894.

THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH.

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1894.

TELEGRAMS.

THE PARISH COUNCILS BILL.

LONDON, February 28th.

The House of Commons has agreed to the amendment made in the Parish Councils Bill by the House of Lords as to the right of acquiring lands, and has accepted a compromise regarding the restriction of the number of elective trustees on parish councils.

PARLIAMENT.

Parliament will reassemble on the twelfth of March.

REINFORCEMENTS FOR WEST AFRICA.

Reinforcements, in the hundred strong, consisting of a detachment from a West Indian regiment, and a further draft from England, will be immediately despatched to Bathurst, the scene of the recent British reverses in West Africa.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

It is stated that New York City has fifty-two Presbyterian churches, with a combined membership of 44,000.

It is estimated that on our globe, which is inhabited by 1,500,000,000 human beings, there are 33,000,000 deaths every year.

With 52 murders and 300 other prisoners awaiting trial, the Cook County Jail, at Chicago, says an American contemporary, is overcrowded.

THE O. & S. Co.'s steamer *Belgic*, with mails, &c., from San Francisco to the 1st inst., has arrived at Yokohama, and will leave for this port tomorrow morning.

A PROLONGED shock of earthquake was felt at Yokohama on the 27th inst.

The longest artificial water-course in the world is said to be the Bengal Canal, 900 miles; the next is the Erie, 353 miles. Each cost nearly \$10,000,000.

His Excellency the Governor will distribute the prizes, won by scholars who competed for the Bellows scholarships in December last, at the Bellows Public School tomorrow morning.

The number of suicides throughout the world is 10,000 yearly, and it is largely on the increase. The greatest number happen in June, the fewest in September, and nearly one-half between 6 a.m. and noon.

Winks—How are you, old chap?

Old Soak—Really sick.

Winks—Am very sorry. What's the trouble?

Old Soak—Don't know, but the doctor's making me drink cold water three times a day!

The Marquis Van Dickens (at a swell ball in London)—Surely I have seen your beautiful face before, Miss Salsolous! Miss Salsolous—More's likely. Pa used it on all his patent medicine ads as "after taking."

To keep the lips in good condition one should never go out into the air without having a little vaseline rubbed on them; it need not be enough to show, but can be enough to keep the cold from affecting them. In addition, do not kiss every chance acquaintance you meet.

"Timor tacing," said Father Kuepin, in a lecture recently delivered at Clifton, "is a sin which should be punishable by law, like attempted suicide or non-vaccination. Unfortunately it is not only foolish young girls who indulge in this abominable practice, but old ladies upon whose faces God has already painted the wrinkles which should be a sign of wisdom."

A LADY who had been travelling in Argentina recently told the following yarn:—She and two friends, having to wait some time for a coach in a small village in that country, happened to station themselves in front of the post-office of the place and attracted the attention and awe of the sympathy of the good woman who officiated as post-mistress. Coming to her door, she said, "Ye ma'am be thinking it a lang waiting there. Come ben w' ye, and has a read o' the post-cards."

At the Harbour Office this morning, before Com. Ramsey, Marine Magistrate, eight freemen of the British steamer *Port Phillip*, named Knight, Mountever, Cross, Kirk, Gist, Oby, Small, and Chappell, were charged by Capt. C. Gray with "combining to disobey lawful orders" on the high seas on the 15th and 16th.

It appeared that they were dissatisfied with their food and treatment, and refused to keep up steam for some little time. Gray was equalled on the plea of illness; Kirk and Chappell, being trimmers, were held not to blame; and the rest were imprisoned for a week.

At the next meeting of the Sanitary Board, on Thursday, March 1st, at 4.15 p.m., the following will be the order of the day:—Mr. Humphreys will move: "That the Board respectfully recommends to his Excellency the Governor its reconstruction upon a popular basis; that the Un-official members be elected by the ratepayers and their number increased; and that the Official members be reduced to three."

Agenda.—1. Mortality returns for weeks ended the 17th and 24th February, 1894. 2. Sanitary Surveyor's report on the condition of drains at 26 to 41 (even numbers) Upper Lucas Road; 189 to 241 (odd numbers) Hollywood Road; 42 to 48, and 26, East Street. 3. Colonial Veterinary Surgeon's report upon the classification of markets. 4. Colonial Veterinary Surgeon's report concerning cases of cattle disease.

THE "Varsity" organ *The Grania*, has once more awakened from a vacation hibernation, and is looking forward to the next inter-university Boat Race, which is to take place on the 14th proximo (it will be a fortnight of a coming triumph, at least with a spirit which ought to be cheering to the Cambridge crew and their friends).

The *Grania* declines to countenance the lay excuse that victories "go in cycles," unless it is going to prove itself by giving laurels to this year's race and its successors during the next four years. "How," continues the writer, "do we stand this year? Our style has undoubtedly improved; our three most prominent ornaments took their places without question and with credit in one of the best crews that ever won the Grand at Henley." It is also noted that Oxford losses have been serious. On the other hand, it is admitted that Oxford starts practice with better prospects, chiefly for the reason that their heavy-weights are at present superior.

A GREAT many lovers of flowers who have not made botanical lore and legend a study, remark on *St. Louis Republic*, often ask themselves or some friend why the "passion flower" is so called, and not one time in a dozen is the correct answer given. It was so named by the first Spanish settlers in the New World because they imagined that they saw in it a representation of our Lady's passion.

The filaments processes are taken to represent the crown of thorns; the styles, the nails used in fastening the Saviour to the cross; the anthers, the marks of the wounds; the leaf, the spear that pierced his side; the tendril, the cords or whips which he was scourged; the column of the ovary, the upright of the cross; the stamens, the hammer; the calyx, the "glory" or halo; the whorled petals, the blue that heaven. "Alway clove" is a still more wonderful representation of the crucifixion. In that flower persons of vivid imagination can see in the markings of the colours of the petals the outlines of a cross with the figure of a man stretched upon it.

We gather from *Lloyd's Register of Shipping* that vessels of the last century are almost extinct, a list of some 50,000 vessels of 100 tons and upward showing only three which can rightly claim 100 years of existence, a few others of about the same age having been more or less completely rebuilt. The vessel "Havre" belongs to this latter class, having in 1845, after nearly a century of usefulness, been thoroughly overhauled, and practically, if not entirely, rebuilt. She is a small wooden brigantine of Danish origin, and appears to be employed in inland waters. Next in order comes the *Copius Pacht*, a wooden screw of 165 tons register, which, although dating from 1792 only, really heads the list of centenarians, as she is in her original condition—ordinary repairs, of course, excepted—and bears the further distinction of being the oldest ship now classed as a clipper.

Lloyd's has classed as "a" having at the end of 1893 been extended for a further term of four years, after special survey at Harwich. A small wooden brig named *Alga*, runs her very close, having been built at Whitby, in 1793, and last year, but her condition does not appear to justify a claim at Lloyd's. She registers in London, and is at present owned at Belfast. The *Havre*, a wooden brigantine of 108 tons, comes next with ninety-nine years to her credit, having been built in 1794 at Yarmouth, and classed as "a" in 1893. She was built by the *Crisis of Sweden*, a wooden brig of over 200 tons register. She, however, was actually rebuilt in 1845, and can hardly therefore lay claim to more than fifty years of existence.

THERE is a good deal of solid sense in the Italian proverb which says "for the buyer a hundred eyes are too few; for the seller one is enough."

Blobs—What girls are like brown sugar? Dobbs—Give it up, dear boy, Blobs—Why, those that are sweet but unrefined?

At the Magistrate's day, before Mr. Woodhouse, a case was sent for trial for stealing \$475 from the wife of a mining collier on the *Isle*, on which they were both passengers from Singapore.

SIR HENRY DALRYMPLE DES VEXES, fifth baronet, who died on the 20th ultimo, was a son of the late Rev. Henry Des Vexes and was the elder brother of Sir G. W. Des Vexes, the late Governor of Hongkong.

In connection with the prosecution which arose out of the bankruptcy of the firm of Pollet and Mülendorff at Yokohama, the last named has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment and to pay costs besides.

AN absent-minded young man while being married, replied to the minister's question, if he was willing to take the young lady for his wedded wife, by scratching his head, and saying—"Yes, I am willing; but I'd much rather have her sister."

The American liners *New York* and *Paris* burn about 370 tons of coal per day, or about 30,800 pounds per hour, and maintain about 12,000 indicated horse-power, which is equivalent to a coal consumption of 1.75 pounds per hour per horse power.

The Russian iron-clad *Admiral Nachimoff* and the cruiser *Rynda* have been detached from the Moscow squadron in the Mediterranean, and were sent from Marseilles for Vladivostok about a fortnight ago. The *Rynda* is an unarmoured cruiser of 2,500 tons displacement, with an indicated horse-power of 3,600, her speed being 15 knots.

HER Gracious Majesty the Queen has evidently pondered well on the saying that "man (and woman too, of course) must eat to live." At Balmoral, where she lives in the simplest possible manner, she begins her day at 8 o'clock with tea, with chocolate or coffee and dry toast. At 9.30 she has breakfast—small trout freshly caught from the river Dee being an invariable dish. At 12.30 after her morning outing, she has a little refreshment—an egg beaten up to milk, some soup and a little fruit. She lunches at 2. Later in the afternoon there is the invariable afternoon tea, and between 8 and 9 dinner is served. Thus on six meals a day does her Majesty manage to sustain nature.

The physiological mechanism of blushing, says Camille Molland in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, has been carefully studied, and shown to be a momentary blanching of the face, caused by emotions, the heart stopping for a second, after which the organ starts with new force and the blood bounding through the arteries. Here the author undertakes to study the psychological mechanism of the blush, that is to say, what is the relation between the physical blush and the feeling which causes it. After a careful examination of the subject and of several theories in regard to it, the conclusion reached is that the question is as yet incapable of solution, it being one of nature's secrets, which has yet to be explained.

THE Cotton Spinners' Union, which has just concluded its general meeting at Osaka, has decided that the contract with the Nippon Yusen Kaisha shall be continued for another year, and all cotton for Japanese consignment imported from Bombay will therefore be shipped by that Company's steamers, and by no other carrier.

The rate of freight, the *Japan Herald* learns, will be a matter of arrangement with the Nippon Yusen Kaisha. 70,000 bales of cotton were originally contracted for with the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, but there having been a total importation of 150,000 bales during last year, some 80,000 were left over, for which the P. & O. S. N. Co. competed. It has now been decided, however, that no cotton whatever must be shipped from Bombay by any outside steamer, and therefore this year there will be none for the British Company.

He, walked into the newspaper office confidently and took a seat.

"Are you the manager?" he asked, briskly.

"What can I do for you?" replied the newspaper man, in a non-committal tone.

"I'm a patent medicine manufacturer. Your paper has a pretty wide circulation, hasn't it?"

"Wide!" The newspaper man swung round in his chair. "Wide! I should say so. We have a circulation greater by two to one than any other paper. A sworn circulation, sir, of 100,000 copies daily, and it's a paid circulation, too, and we reach the families of every man, woman, and child in the colony."

"You consider this, our advertising rates are—well, they're so low that we are going to advance 'em 50 per cent. right after the first. I don't exaggerate in the least, sir, when I say that we offer positively the best advertising medium in this part of the world. Why, you can see for yourself what the results must be for an 'ad.' placed before 3,000,000 people every week, and—where are you going?"

"Oh! I'm a little," replied the stranger, putting on his hat. "I'm a little bit of a nerve medicine, and I came in to sell you a bottle, but I see you don't need it."

THE *Japan Gazette* records an atrocious murder which was committed near Yokohama early in the morning of the 18th in the Buddhist temple at Kishiboi. At about 3 a.m., two burglars, dressed like coolies, and concealing their faces in towels, broke into the temple, and tied up the priest, Sakai Kenryo, 45 years old, and his wife, Matsuo, 44 years old. Then they passed a couple of cloth round the neck of the priest, and demanded him to tell where his money was and did not keep quiet. Seeing resistance impossible, he meekly complied with the demand. No sooner had the robbers got hold of about fifty yen of money, than they completely strangled the priest. The wife, who was raising an outcry at the horrible sight, was cut down with a kitchen-knife by one of the murderers, and received three severe wounds on her head, and an ugly cut on her hand. She was then covered with *putan*. A disciple, Suzuki Kenryo, by name, eleven years old, was next strangled by the robbers. They then attempted to strangle the wounded woman, who was almost fainting through loss of blood; but probably believing she was dead, they gave up the attempt. After snatching the house and finding nothing else to plunder, they set fire to a heap of fuel, which they had arranged in such a way that the flames would catch hold of the building after the robbers had left. They then themselves calmly departed. Having secured themselves calmly, the wounded woman, after the robbers had left, managed to open a door, with her hands tied, and ran to a neighbour's house. In the house, a policeman made his appearance, and with the help of the neighbours succeeded in putting out the fire, which had already reached the roof. On the matter being reported to the Chief Police, all the off-duty policemen, as well as those on duty were called out and have since been busily engaged in the search for the murderers.

The two contractors charged with causing the deaths of nine coolies, through negligence, at the scene of the recent landslide at Calvo Road, were brought up again today before Mr. Hastings, acting magistrate, who after a little further formal evidence committed them for trial at the next Criminal Sessions. Bail \$5000 each.

THE Sublime Porte has decided to allow the free exercise of the medical profession to duly qualified women who present proper diplomas and pass a satisfactory examination at the Imperial school of medicine. This permission was refused to women generally, but the Grand Vizier, Rejeb Pasha, has displayed a liberal spirit and freedom from prejudice in dealing with the subject. It has been in a great measure due to the exertions of the United States Minister, who pressed the claim of a fully qualified American lady who recently arrived with the object of practising medicine in Turkey and who proved herself fully competent after all formalities had been strictly carried out.

On Friday, Saturday, and Sunday next Hongkong is to be treated to another infliction of Chinese festivities, in connection with the Man Mo temple, one of the leading local "josses." Every year the temple has a celebration in honour of something or other—Buddha alone knows what—but this year it is to be very much worse than usual. The reason for this also is probably known only to Confucius & Co. Anyhow, the arrangements are on such a colossal scale that several European officials have been requested by the Chinese to assist; and Mr. Stewart-Lockhart (Protector of Chinese), Mr. Woodhouse (Police Magistrate), and Capt. Ramsey (Harbour Master)—three notable examples of the fact that a true gentleman may have more good nature than sense—have consented to condescend, and abet in the perpetration of the Pandemoniacal pageant. On Thursday night there will be a sort of preliminary dinner on the new Praya Reclamation in front of the City Hall, where games and various exhibits will be given, and from the description these will be something really worth seeing.

On Friday morning, however, the fun begins. There will be a grand procession timed to start at nine o'clock, but probably it will not get under way until 10 a.m.—alla mode China fashion, old custom. Three huge dragons, with lots of smaller objects, will be carried from the Chinese Recreation Ground (Hollywood Road) to the Alice Memorial Hospital, where the patients will be treated to a Wagner selection on gongs, entitled "The Hammer-shop Fugue." Thence the flood of melody and beauty will wind its way east, past the Fire Brigade Station (city the hose cannot be turned on), past the Supreme Court (which of course will be unable to work off its usual Friday list of summary cases), past the City Hall and parade ground on Murray Road by the Tram Station, by the Government Offices and the public gardens, along Calvo Road and down Arbuthnot Road to the Magistracy, then back by Wyndham Street to the *Daily Press* and *China Mail* offices, up Wellington Street, Pottinger Street, Graham Street, and the Man Mo Temple. Having obtained the pilgrims for the gong-bumping brigade, the *Quartier Des Mondes*, back by Victoria Dispensary to the Clock Tower, say by about noon. After a demonstration by the United Order of Riveters and Holders-up, if the Tower is not shaken down by the row with fatal consequences, the infernal din will be taken along the Praya to the Canton Wharf, and on reaching Morrison Street halt will be called for refreshments at 1.30 p.m. The show will then "proceed" westward, following the route about Shek-tung-tai, following the route, and either suburban water-log-places will fetch up at the Man Mo Temple again, nominally by 4 p.m., but probably (being Chinese) an hour or two later. At night there will be a lantern procession, starting from the City Hall about 9 p.m., and going along Queen's Road as far as Wing Shing Street (near the Ko Shing Theatre) and then back by the Praya to the City Hall Reclamation; up Murray Road to Government House, on Calvo Road, down past the Central Police Station, and thence head off west, and ultimately about midnight back to the City Hall. On Saturday the procession will take possession of the Colony during the day by a different route, and by night will keep along the Praya, while there will be a stream of illuminated sampans, two or three deep, rowing along the shore. Chinese estimates put the number of craft in this procession at over a thousand, but Chinese estimates are more or less vague. The boats will go in for crackers and gongs regardless of expense, and fire insurance regulations. There will also be a grand display of Chinese fireworks on the Reclamation, with gorgeous figures and set pieces. The subscriptions for the display total over \$12,000, so that it is certain to be something unparalleled in the history of Hongkong.

Importing Bar Silver to be sold (i.e. exchanged for Hongkong Currency does not add to the aggregate stock of currency available for the trade of this port.

4. It would serve as a valuable alternative form of remittance from London whenever Mexican Dollars were dear or scarce.

5. The London Silver Market is a very one whereas the Mexican Dollar Market is still comparatively limited. Any demand for the latter coin, at once creates a price, whereas a demand for Bar Silver would simply mean, as far as the Silver Market is concerned, a demand for Bar Silver for shipment to the East, and would have no such marked effect on prices.

6. A minor reason is that a British Dollar could not be so frequently counterfeited as the present Mexican Dollar. Bad or cheap, "flow touch" and inferior coins are a steady source of loss, perhaps more so in the Straits and Shanghai than in Hongkong, where very poor specimens pass by weight.

7. During the 10 years 1883-1893 there were exported from Japan 43,000,000 silver yen against 41,000,000 imported. The net export of yen 2,000,000 went chiefly to the Straits, thus reducing the demand from that quarter on the Mexican Dollar market. Should the Japanese Government decide in view of recent events to close their Mint at Osaka to the coinage of Silver that would mean an extra annual demand of Mexican Dollars of about 34,000,000. This would naturally lead to an increase in the cost of Mexican.

In support of reasons 1 and 2 is appended a table giving simultaneous quotations for Bar Silver and Mexican Dollars during 1893 from which it will be seen that Mexican Dollars during the past year were both dearer and scarcer, and this is not an exceptional state of affairs. Taking an ounce of standard silver 25 fine and an ounce of Mexican dollars 480 grains 25 fine and the latter coin should be 838 of a penny cheaper per ounce than Bar Silver to put silver and Mexican on a parity.

During the mail week ending 21st July last considerable amounts of Mexican Dollars were purchased in London for the Hongkong market at 53 per cent. above their metallic value, while during three succeeding weeks they were not obtainable even at that fancy price. This extra cost is not borne by the importing Banks as middlemen, but by the trade of the Colony, upon which it is an indirect tax paid to an American Republic. On many other dates it will be observed that either there was no quotation of Mexicans or that it was "nominal" "market bare," "none offering" &c.

Last year in May, June and July the scarcity of Mexican Dollars in Hongkong was so great that they went up to 24 or 3 per cent. premium over Hongkong currency, whereas their weight value is only one half of one per cent. higher than our currency. This heavy extra premium during the busiest time of our rice trade, operated as a tax of 2 to 3 per cent. on the principal article of food consumed here. In fact it was worse than a tax, because it assisted the State Treasury, whereas this 2 to 3 per cent. was indirectly a tribute paid by the Colony to Mexican producers of dollars.

The first result of legislating a British Dollar would probably be a fall in the premium on Mexican Dollars to some thing under the cost of a British Dollar, that is they would probably rarely rise more than 14 per cent. over their metallic value. In case it should be assumed that this result, while very satisfactory in itself, would militate against the successful introduction to Eastern circulation of the Mexican Dollar, it must be remembered that the Mexican Dollar being dear is also actually scarce. In the *London and China Express* of 5th ult., is given an extract from the annual circular of Messrs. Sharp and Wilkins, well-known London bullion brokers, which reads as follows:

"The supply of Mexican Dollars throughout the year has been much below the average of past years, and the coins have commanded a fair premium over their intrinsic value, as the demand has been at all times sufficient to take all offering on this market."

The recent very heavy decline in silver will doubtless have the same effect on Mexico as Japan, i.e. stimulate the export trade and home manufactures. The result would be a decrease in the annual balance of trade against Mexico which is at present settled by exports of bullion and dollars, and consequently a diminution in the amount of Mexican Dollars exported.

Information has been received that the Bombay Mint would coin British Dollars free of charge, simply charging the actual cost of minting, which has been carefully estimated at a trifle over 1 per cent. To this has to be added about 1 per cent. to cover extra freight and insurance from Bombay to Hongkong, and an allowance for interest, which would bring the total cost up to 14 per cent. In a letter which appeared in the *Hongkong Daily Press* of 27th ultimo I assumed the cost of minting and charges to be 8 per cent. but from enquiries made, 14 per cent. may be taken as sufficient allowance. Of course shipping charges London to Hongkong against the shipping charges London to Hongkong which would be incurred on shipments of Mexican.

As in some quarters there seems a rooted idea that the coinage of a British Dollar will result in loss to the Government, it may not be superfluous to add that it is difficult to see how any loss could be incurred by anyone, unless by speculation in uncovered shipments, when the time losses might occur in any uncovered exchange operation. All that the Banks ask is the right to tender Bar Silver to the Government Mint, for coinage into Dollars, the Banks paying for the cost of coinage and the Government undertaking no risk or responsibility beyond assuring the public before leaving the Mint and of paper weight and assaying. British Dollars could be coined and imported unless Banks found that the operation was cheaper than importing Mexican Dollars, so there would be a gain to British Trade instead of a loss. The Indian Mints would lose nothing for although they would give out actual cost of coinage, it would give them at any rate partial employment, a result probably much wished for by them at present.

It is not within the compass of

